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Letter dated 3 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement of 3 April 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the settlement of the situation with respect to Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the settlement of the situation with respect to Iraq

The continuing tension with respect to Iraq has a destabilizing impact on the situation in the Persian Gulf region and in the Middle East as a whole. The Russian Federation is firmly convinced that a solution to the complex set of chronic problems in that region must be found exclusively through the political and diplomatic channel.

There is today an acute need for new approaches to the problem of Iraq based on taking into account the interrelatedness of all its aspects and the realities of the dynamically evolving situation. The speedy ending of the current deadlock with regard to the settlement of the Iraq issue will make it possible to ensure the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on Iraq and to lift the international sanctions against that country, of which the civilian population is the main victim.

The Russian Federation proposes to all States interested in a comprehensive settlement of the Iraq issue and the stabilization of the situation in the Persian Gulf region that they unite their efforts on the basis of a "package" approach entailing the suspension and then the lifting of economic sanctions in exchange for the re-establishment in Iraqi territory of an international disarmament monitoring system.

Within a short period of time, Iraq and the Secretary-General of the United Nations could draw up a concrete formula for giving effect to this idea which would include the objectives and modalities of inspection activity, the status of and rules of conduct for the staff of the international monitoring organ in Iraqi territory, a dispute settlement mechanism, etc. All of these issues must be embodied in a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations.

If within a clearly defined reasonable period the monitoring organ finds no activity by Iraq associated with prohibited military programmes, the Security Council will take a decision on the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq. This should take place in parallel with the normalization of Iraq's bilateral relations with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In their dealings with Iraq, all States Members of the United Nations will be guided by the principles of respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as provided for in the relevant Security Council resolutions, and refrain from action running counter to the universally accepted norms of international law.

The Russian Federation also calls for a speedy settlement of the situation in the Persian Gulf region as a whole, its peaceful reconstruction and transformation into a zone free from all types of weapons of mass destruction and the development there of comprehensive trade and economic cooperation. To this end, there is a need to construct in the region a system of agreements and corresponding international guarantees of renunciation of the use of force in international relations, respect for

territorial integrity and sovereignty and non-interference in one another's internal affairs.

The Russian Federation is ready to cooperate with all interested countries in developing a concrete formula for post-crisis reconstruction in the Persian Gulf region.

3 April 2001.